

AMAA news



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Camp Sheen Shoghig, Hankavan, Armenia



KCHAG campsite in Lebanon

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Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia

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Editorial Message

Called to Go and Do Likewise

Levon Filian

The parable of the Good Samaritan is probably one of the most famous parables Jesus taught. It invites us into a dialogue, an exchange of questions and answers, and into a deeper understanding of the meaning of **love**. It challenges us to take action and provides us with an example to “GO AND DO LIKEWISE.”



In Luke 10: 25-37, we read the parable of the Good Samaritan. *"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?' He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.' But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' In reply Jesus said: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'GO AND DO LIKEWISE.'"*

In this parable, Jesus clearly demonstrates the following:

- Love** requires more than the knowledge of God's word. The expert in the law, the Priest and the Levite all knew the word of God, but they all chose to find excuses not to take action.
- Our **love** for God is evidenced in the **love** we demonstrate for our neighbor.
- Neighborliness transcends geographic boundaries, race, nationality or political affiliations. It also transcends religious denominations, dogmas and traditions.
- Loving** God and **loving** our neighbors lifts us from:
 - Analyzing to Action
 - Memorization to Motion
 - Preaching to Practicing
 - Philosophy to Passion
 - Words to Work

So today, more than ever, as we see people “half dead” in broken homes, in orphans, in widows, in the unemployed, and the refugees, people who are either suppressed by their own people or by the enemy, we need to take action. Wherever those people are, whether in our backyard or oceans away in the diaspora or in our homeland, we are called to be a good Samaritan and show our **love** for God by showing our passion to our neighbor by **going and doing likewise**.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, our AMAA supporters, who demonstrate your **love** for God by helping us to go and do likewise. We also challenge all of our readers to **GO AND DO LIKEWISE!** □

AMAA Spring Concert Delights Audience in NYC

One of the most eagerly anticipated events sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) each year is the Spring Concert held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. Benefitting the AMAA's Summer Camps in Armenia and Karabagh, the Concert was held on May 15 and featured a varied program of classical and Armenian music.

AMAA Board member Peter Kougasian, Esq. gave the opening remarks. Lucy Janjigian, Board member and National Chair of the AMAA Summer Camp and Christmas Committee, brought greetings. Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, welcomed everyone and thanked the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York for hosting the event.

The young performers included Natalie Zabel Aroyan, an Armenian-Australian soprano, who was awarded first place in the Opera Foundation New York competition; violinist Nazig Tchakarian, an international soloist who made her Carnegie Hall debut in May, 2008; violist Aleksandr Nazaryan, a graduate of the Julliard School of Music; cellist Benjamin Larsen, an international performer; and pianist Hayk Arsenyan, a native Armenian who is currently on the faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

The afternoon's program combined classical and Armenian repertoire. The Concert began with Dvorak's Piano Quartet #1 (opus 23 in D major). The piece proved to be a perfect vehicle to display the precision and artistic nuance of the ensemble. Next were two Chopin piano etudes: opus 10, number 6, a meditative piece that has been described as "full of stifled sorrow," and opus 10, number 5, also called the "black key etude" because the right-hand part is played entirely on the black keys. Mr. Arsenyan executed both etudes with technical excellence and artistic soulfulness. Ms. Aroyan displayed her vocal gifts with moving interpretations of pieces by Massenet and Catalani. Mr. Arsenyan then displayed his gift of interpretation for contemporary music by performing the modern, polyphonic "Suite for Piano" by Alan Hovhaness.

The conclusion – and apotheosis – of the program were three songs performed a capella by Ms. Aroyan: the familiar spiritual "Park Dank" (Give Thanks), the soulful "Groong" (Crane) by Komidas, and the loving "Ay Vart" by Spendirian. It would be impossible to select three songs which could so perfectly convey the virtuosity of the soloist, the exceptional acoustics of the New York Church, or the spirituality of the performance.

In closing, Summer Camp and Christmas Committee Chair Elbiz Baghdikian expressed the mood perfectly by saying that the Concert, like the closing songs themselves, was "about our faith and giving thanks, and about us not knowing about our world, and about our need to love each other. This really spoke about why we are here today – reaching out to each other as good Christians and as human beings." □



Vocalist Natalie Aroyan and Pianist Hayk Arsenyan.



The Artists L to R: Vocalist Natalie Aroyan, Cellist Ben Larsen, Violinist Nazig Tchakarian, Violist Aleksandr Nazaryan and Pianist Hayk Arsenyan.

Easter Programs in Armenia & Artsakh

Over 5,000 children, teenagers and their parents participated in the AMAA Easter Activities in 2011. The activities were planned and carried out under the supervision and leadership of the AMAA staff and the ECA staff in Armenia and Artsakh. These activities were held in 46 towns and villages. We want to thank our staff and Christian Education leaders and volunteers who made these programs possible.

The meaning of Easter, crucifixion, resurrection, and the promise and the hope for eternal life were the themes. Below is a brief report on some of the activities:

Alaverdi - The theme was the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The children presented a play which was followed by games organized for younger children.



Easter in Alaverdi



Easter in Alaverdi



Easter in Byureghavan

Byureghavan - The Sunday school children had prepared a "praise songs" program which was followed by a play titled "The Centurion's Remorse."

Dilijan - A special service was held to celebrate Easter and reflect on the April 24, 1915 Genocide, which coincided with Easter Sunday. The program included a selection of praise songs led by Jivan Khghatyan, a famous Christian singer.

Gyumri - The Christian Education team organized a program which included praise songs, recitations, and a sermon that reflected on the strong faith of our forefathers, the Genocide and Christ's resurrection.



Easter in Berd



Easter in Ichevan



Easter in Shirakamout

Yerevan - The ECA presented a play called "The Meeting." The theme was about the betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ who died for our sins and gave us eternal life.



Easter in Yerevan



The Cast of "The Meeting" play in Yerevan. Second from left is Nouné Abrahamyan, writer and producer of the play.

Indeed, every sermon, every play, every program, every song and every recitation touches the lives of all those who participate in or attend these programs. They are taught and reminded that there is a Living God, who loves them, hears their prayers and invites them to be His children

We thank all our sponsors and supporters who make these programs possible. We also thank all our staff in Armenia, the ECA, Christian Education and our pastors and youth leaders for their hard work. □



Easter in Yerevan



Easter in Yerevan



Easter in Yerevan

Greetings and a Pictorial Report From Armenia, England and Lebanon

Dear AMAA family members, friends and supporters:

During his most recent visit in May 2011, the AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian met with sponsors, donors and representatives of missionary and philanthropic organizations to expand the joint efforts in helping our people globally. He also visited various sites to oversee ongoing AMAA projects.

We ask our readers to continue your support and your prayers for the success of your organization.



AMAA & UAECNE leadership meeting in Beirut.



Haigazian University Board of Trustees Meeting in Beirut.



Remembering camp days in KCHAG (Lebanon).



Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon H.E. Mr. Ashod Kocharian addressing the guests at Haigazian University's 55th Anniversary Banquet in Beirut.



AMAA major donors Mr. and Mrs. Asadour Izmirlian with Levon Filian in England.



L to R: Analise and Gottfried Spangenberg, Anjar Boarding School Director and Swiss-German Hilfsbund missionaries, with Levon Filian and Rev. Raffi Messerlain, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Anjar, Lebanon.



Meeting with Sam Chekijian and Jeff Bilezikian in Yerevan.



Meeting with UN Development Program (UNDP) team, Dr. Dafina Gercheva (middle) and L to R Dr. Vrej Jilyan and Dr. Armen Baibourtian in Yerevan.



Meeting with Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Director Mr. Ashot Ghazarian, in Yerevan.



Future site of the Avedisian High School in Yerevan. L to R: Andranik Mardoyan, Melania Keghamyan, Principal of Avedisian School, Jeff Bilezikian, Avedisian School Committee member, and Levon Filian.



Believers worshipping in a container with a wood burning stove in Shiragamut, Armenia.



Remodeling a church in Shiragamut, Armenia.



*A new roof over the kitchen and dining room at Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia.
Your donations at Work!*



Kitchen remodeling at Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia. (see next issue with changes)



Evangelical Church of Armenia under construction in Ashtarak, Armenia. (see next issue with changes)



AMAA Administrative staff in their new headquarters on Baghramian St., Yerevan.

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church Celebrates AMAA Sunday

The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Greater Philadelphia, PA observed AMAA Sunday on June 5 and welcomed Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), for his first visit to the Church. Mr. Filian preached and the Pastor, Rev. Nishan Bakalian, led the worship service.

The congregation, which has long supported the work of the AMAA, gathered after the service to hear more about what its mission partners are doing in Armenia, the Middle East and throughout the world. Mr. Filian encouraged the congregation to maintain its support through daily prayer for the AMAA, and reminded the Church to pray for its Pastor, Rev. Bakalian, who is leading this year's AMAA Summer Internship Program to Armenia and Lebanon. □



Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown Observes AMAA Sunday

The Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA designated April 10 as AMAA Sunday. Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), brought his greetings from the AMAA Board of Directors and expressed his joy to worship and have fellowship with AMC parishioners.

He introduced the AMAA in a very different way. He said "It not only asks and receives, but it also shares and gives." He mentioned how the AMAA has donated hundreds of Armenian Bibles to Evangelical and Apostolic churches, provides scholarships to deserving students in the United States, the Middle East and in Armenia, sponsors internship programs for Armenian youth and seminars for pastors in Armenia. He invited the congregation to partner with the AMAA in prayer and extended an invitation to the Church members to attend the AMAA Annual Banquet in October and to plan to visit Armenia in September.

Mr. Filian thanked the AMC membership for its continued support and contributions to the AMAA and its projects. After the worship service, Mr. Filian, along with his wife Liliana, joined the congregation during its fellowship hour. Mr. Filian met with individual members and families, shared more information about the AMAA and answered questions. □

AMAA Participates in Alexandria Armenian Festival

On Saturday June 4, David Aynejian and Tigran Melkonyan from AMAA participated in the 19th Annual Alexandria Armenia Festival.

Each year, the Armenian community, under the leadership of the Knights of Vartan, organizes a festival in Alexandria, Virginia. The festival is held in front of the City Hall in Alexandria, and invites all Armenian organizations to participate. Among the participants were the AMAA, ANCA, Armenian Assembly, AGBU Young Professionals, and Knights of Vartan. It was a festive occasion filled with traditional Armenian songs, dances, storytelling, arts and crafts, and food.

The AMAA participated in the event with a display of Bibles, Armenian books, literature, Armenian puzzles and games, Armenian blocks and souvenirs. It also provided booklets and literature about the AMAA mission in 24 countries, emphasizing the Orphan and Child Care and Child Sponsorship Programs. The Armenia T.V. interviewed David and Tigran and later broadcast the program about the AMAA. □

First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal Welcomes AMAA Executive Director

Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), along with his wife, Liliana, visited the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal on May 21-22. The purpose of his visit was to encourage and strengthen ties between Evangelical churches and the AMAA by meeting with church leaders and by participating in their worship services and activities.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Filian met with the Church committee and gave them information on the AMAA's work in the United States and in other parts of the world. He also had one-on-one meetings with various Church members.

During the Sunday morning worship service, Mr. Filian preached from Luke chapters 11 and 18. In Luke, chapter 11, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. Mr. Filian explained that in order to experience intimacy in prayer, we should enter into the presence of the Lord and to seek His face. Jesus spent long hours praying to His heavenly Father, from whom He received His strength and thus performed mighty miracles among the people. When Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, He emphasized the words "thy will be



Levon Filian with Montreal Church Council

done." We too, should seek the Lord's will in all situations, and refrain from dictating our own will to Him. In Luke, chapter 18, Jesus tells the parable of the widow who continually pleaded with the judge to vindicate her against her adversary. The judge, even though he did not fear God, finally decided to help the widow, in order to be free from her relentless plea. Here, Jesus teaches us that we too should persevere in prayer. If we ask, we shall receive; if we seek, we shall find; and if we knock, the door will be opened to us. Ask, and the Lord will answer your prayer in His own time.

Mr. Filian concluded his message by saying that to know God means to have a relationship with Him and this relationship should be mutual. As we wait on the Lord in silence and listen to His voice, He will answer and grant our request in due time. Let us pray in faith and seek His face continuously.

At the conclusion of the service, Mr. Filian gave a short presentation on the work and the mission of the AMAA. The congregation was encouraged by his words and a number of people promised to get involved in the work of the AMAA. □



Levon Filian and Simon Mouradian

AMAA Receives \$100,000 Grant From The Annenberg Foundation

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was recently named recipient of an unrestricted grant of \$100,000 from the Annenberg Foundation. The unrestricted contribution will be used to provide general operating support to further the AMAA's mission to serve the physical and spiritual needs of people everywhere, both at home and overseas.

"We are truly blessed to receive this grant from the Annenberg Foundation," said Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. "The funds will help support our many programs around the world. We thank the Annenberg Foundation for its generosity and the AMAA Board members who were instrumental in obtaining this grant."

The Annenberg Foundation is a private family foundation that provides funding and support to nonprofit organizations in the United States and globally. Since 1989, it has generously funded programs in education and youth development; arts, culture and humanities; civic and community life; health and human services; animal services and the environment. In addition, the Foundation and its Board of Directors are directly involved in the community with several projects that expand and complement its grant support to nonprofits. Among them are innovative nonprofit capacity building initiatives, the Annenberg Space for Photography, Explore, and the Metabolic Studio. The Annenberg Foundation exists to advance the public well-being through improved communication. As the principal means of achieving this goal, the Foundation encourages the development of more effective ways to share ideas and knowledge.

The Board of Directors of the AMAA thanks the Annenberg Foundation, appreciates their philanthropic efforts around the world and wishes them great success. □

Hoy Lari Concert Delights Audience And Benefits AMAA Milk Fund

The Armenian Children's Milk Fund (ACMF) continues its 22 year tradition of helping needy children in Armenia. On April 10, the stage at the Regent Theatre in Arlington, MA came alive during a fun and interactive children's show, which featured Hoy Lari, a dynamic Armenian performing duo from California. The audience was treated to a lively concert by the talented Hoy Lari duo, Janet Yetenekian and Paola Kassabian, who got everyone up and out of their seats, singing and dancing on the stage and in the aisles to songs such as "Yerevagayenk" (Let's Imagine) and "Dzapeloo Khagh" (Clapping Game).

Proceeds from the concert benefitted the most vulnerable citizens of Armenia: infants and newborns in their first year of life. The ACMF's mission is to provide formula to babies in Armenia who are orphaned, whose mothers are unable to breastfeed or whose families are unable to purchase infant formula. Since its inception in 1989, the ACMF has supplied formula to over 10,000 babies during their first year of life.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees and supporters who sponsored the concert, all donations and proceeds from the event



*Children enjoying Hoy Lari Concert.
Photo courtesy of aramophoto*

were used to support the Milk Fund in Armenia. Hoy Lari enjoyed the event so much that they have offered to perform annually for the Milk Fund. □

First Armenian Church Holds Fundraiser for Camp Arevelk

On April 8, many colorful camp t-shirts were hung on a clothes line in Nahigian Hall at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, MA. The t-shirts, which represented summers of fond memories, beginnings of friendships and times of devotion and learning about Christ, were the decorations for the Camp Arevelk Fundraising Dinner sponsored by the Camp Committee.

Over 130 guests enjoyed a delicious kebab dinner, served by the high school students. The guests were entertained by the talented musicians of Karnan Trio during dinner and also enjoyed a slide show of camp photos. Rev. Dr. John Mokkaosian delivered an animated and jovial presentation on the importance of camping ministries to one's walk with Christ. He stressed how vital it is to have an institution like Camp Arevelk for our youth to develop their Christian faith among their peers and advisors who share their beliefs.

This was a unique event attended by the pastors and members of five Armenian churches on the East Coast, namely Armenian Congregational Church of the Martyrs', Worcester, MA, Ararat Armenian Congregational Church, Salem, NH, the Euphrates Armenian Evangelical Church, Providence, RI, the First Armenian Church, Belmont MA and the Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown, MA. Also in attendance was the AMAA Executive



Camp Arevelk Banquet Committee

Director Levon Filian with his wife, Liliana.

Since Camp Arevelk's first summer, every camper's tuition has been significantly subsidized. The cost is even greater this year. Instead of passing on added costs to parents, the Camp Committee, composed of ministers, parents and individuals who deeply care about this ministry, decided to hold a fundraiser.

Tsoleen Sarian, a Camp Committee member, emphasized the importance to financially support the Camp project as an investment in the future of our children. Donations can be sent to Camp Arevelk, 9 Arpi Way, Wayland, MA 01778. □

Merдинian School Celebrates 29th Year At Annual Banquet

The Merдинian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA celebrated its 29th anniversary at the School's Annual Banquet on April 9 at the Pandora on Green Hall in Pasadena, CA. Over 250 friends of the School attended the celebration.

Sona Khanjian, Chair of the Banquet Committee, welcomed the guests and introduced Master of Ceremonies Zaven Khanjian, one of the founding members of the School. Grigor Hovhannissian, General Counsel of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles, brought his greetings and congratulated all those who support the School and wished them much success in the coming years. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the School Board, greeted the guests and talked about the successes and the future needs of the School. He stressed the importance of Armenian-Christian education, and expressed the willingness of the School's leadership to continue its mission in this very challenging service.

After dinner, violinist Mary Haig entertained the guests with popular and classical Armenian music; Shoushan Kalsdian, a 2010 graduate, recited Baruyr Sevag's "We Are Few but We Are Called Armenians" poem; and Armenian dances were performed by the "Hayasdan" Dance Group.

Hovsep Inejikian, Principal of Merдинian School, recognized two educators who were chosen by the School Board to be honored for their many years of service: Mrs. Zepure Talatinian, for teaching the Armenian language at Merдинian for 25 years and Mr. Aram Boulghourjian whose educational career extends over 45 years as a teacher and principal in various schools in the Middle East and the United States. He was the Principal of Merдинian from 1984 until his retirement in 1990. Dr. Nalbandian presented each honoree with a plaque and a gift.

The Keynote Speaker of the Banquet was the Honorable Paul Krekorian, a member of the Los Angeles City Council and a proud Merдинian parent. Mr. Krekorian highlighted the importance of national identity, and said that our language, literature, church and cultural heritage are the essential elements for keeping our national



L to R. Hovsep Inejikian, Principal, Honorees Zepure Talatinian and Aram Boulghourjian, and Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the School Board.



Zaven Khanjian, Banquet MC



Honorable Paul Krekorian, Keynote Speaker

identity. He asked the guests to cherish and appreciate all those who work for this purpose at Merдинian School and elsewhere.

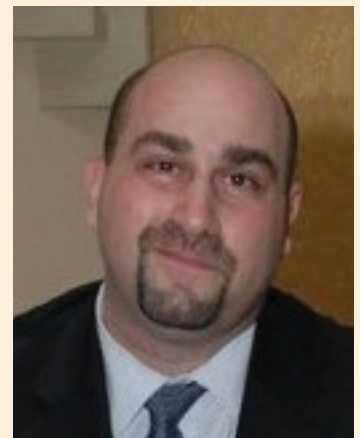
Rev. Kevork Terian concluded the evening's celebration with benediction. □

David Aynejian Joins AMAA Staff

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Aynejian as Director of Finance. David has spent his career in public accounting and internal audit and has worked for Deloitte & Touche, Wyeth and Akzo Nobel.

David graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a BA in Accounting, and has been a CPA since 1999. He has traveled to over 25 countries and accompanied Levon Filian on a recent trip to Armenia.

David grew up attending the First Baptist Church in Hackensack, NJ, and is currently a member of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, NJ, where he has taught Sunday school for the last seven years. He is studying for his Masters of Divinity degree in pastoral ministries from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. □



Summer has Arrived!

and thousands of children in **Armenia and Karabagh** are eagerly waiting for the first day of camp. These camps not only enrich the children's lives spiritually and physically, but provide them relief from hot summers with a week in the country.

Unfortunately, many children might miss the opportunity without your help.

A \$70 contribution will help one more child to be able to attend an overnight camp this summer and \$40 will help one more child to attend a day camp for a week.

The **Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA)** operates two overnight camps in Armenia and Karabagh - **Hankavan and Shushi**, and 46 day camps in other areas in the homeland. Campers come from impoverished families and the AMAA cannot charge them any fees. That is why we rely on your assistance.

Please help us bring more children to camp this year. Be as generous as you can. The children will never forget your love and the positive impact your gift will make on their young lives.



Yes, I would like to help children in Armenia & Karabagh to attend summer camps. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for:

_____ Children @ \$70 each for overnight camps

_____ Children @ \$40 each for day camps

Name _____ Tel _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

(Make tax deductible donations to AMAA earmarked for Armenia Summer Camps and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please call AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit the AMAA's website: www.amaa.org)

Concert and Dinner Commemorate 47th Anniversary of Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal

A concert and dinner, commemorating the 47th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, was held May 21 in Laval. The evening was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Albert & Layla Aroyan and planned by the Church's Activity and Fundraising Committee.

Special guests included Basile Angelopoulos, City Counselor who represented Laval Mayor Gilles Vaillancourt, Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) with his wife Liliana, and Harout Nercessian, Operations Manager and Deputy Representative of the AMAA Yerevan office.

The Concert program included 14 arrangements including Gomidas' Armenian folk songs; Khachaturian's suites from his Gayaneh ballet; Armenian Apostolic Churches liturgical canticles; the 12th century Catholicos Nerses Shnorhali; and the prelude from Dikranian's Anoush. Playing the duduk and clarinet, soloist Hampartzoum Djabourian, was accompanied by 15 musicians of The Russian Arc, a string chamber orchestra led by Maestro Ariat Ichmouratov.

The guests of honor at the dinner included Evangelical, Apostolic and Catholic Reverends, Spiritual Fathers and representatives from Armenian cultural and charity organizations. They included: Mr. Alain Paquin: Provincial Delegate Minister to Finance; Mr. & Mrs. Roger and Sheila Snelling, Representing the United Church of Canada; Der Vazken Boyadjian; Sourp Krikor Apostolic Church; Der Karnig Koyounian; Sourp Hagop, Apostolic Church; Der Gomidas Mirzakhanian; Sourp Khatch Apostolic Church; Rev. Dr. Manuel Jimbashian; Rev. Jirair Bizdikian; Rev. Mardiros Eylengian and Rev. Barkev Talasslian.

Keynote speaker Mr. Filian stressed that being a Christian is testifying and living by example and also by relying on the power of prayer. Mr. Nercessian gave a report on the local activities of the organization. The Canadian Federal MP, Alain Paquet, was introduced by Marguerite Melkonian, and expressed his words of appreciation. The evening ended with a pastoral benediction given by Rev. John Zarifian. □



*Soloist Hampartzoum Djabourian
and Maestro Ariat Ichmouratov.*



*L to R: MP Alain Paquet, Rev. John Zarifian
and Levon Filian.*

Save the Date

AMAA 92nd Annual Meeting Banquet
Saturday, October 15, 6:30 pm
at the Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, CA 91608
Details to follow

Robert S. Hekemian, Sr. Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Robert S. Hekemian, Sr., long time supporter and member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was recently honored by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), sponsors of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was presented to Mr. Hekemian on May 7 on Ellis Island, where 12 million immigrants entered the United States from 1892 to 1954.

Each year since 1986, NECO, whose mission is to honor our diverse Past, to advocate for positive change in the Present, and to build strong leaders for the Future, has honored the nation's leaders by sponsoring the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor annually pays tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. The Medals are presented on Ellis Island, in a dramatic ceremony with over 1,000 attendees, to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world.

Past Medalists include six Presidents of the United States, as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government including Colin Powell, Sen. John McCain, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Lee Iacocca, Rosa Parks, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Yogi Berra, Arnold Palmer, Tom Brokaw, and Walter Cronkite. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor ranks among the nation's most prestigious awards. The US Senate and House of Representatives have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and each recipient is listed in the Congressional

Record. To date, more than 1,800 American citizens have received the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Hekemian has been active in the real estate industry for 60 years. He is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Hekemian & Co., Inc., a Real Estate Investment, Management and Brokerage company which owns and develops assets throughout the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions of the United States. He is also the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of First Real Estate Investment Trust of New Jersey (FREVS), a publicly traded REIT. His extensive community and civic involvement has included serving on a number of Boards including the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, Hackensack University Medical Center, Bergen Community College and the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

His wife, MJ Hekemian, serves as National Co-Chair of the AMAA Child and Orphan Care Committee, and his sons Robert Jr., Bryan and David, and daughter Lisa, have all been involved in the AMAA serving on the Board of Directors and on various committees.

"All of us at the AMAA congratulate Mr. Hekemian on this prestigious award," said Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. "He and his family have had an enormous impact on the AMAA over the years and for that we are truly thankful." □



APC Honors Arouss Darpinian

Arouss Darpinian, a longtime member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was honored by the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC), Paramus, NJ on April 17 for her many years of service to the Church.

Since 1977, Arouss has served the APC in various ministries as an Elder, Clerk of the Session, and as a member of the Choir, Women's Guild, Worship and Music Committee and Christian Education Committee and a teacher in the Vacation Bible School. She also leads the Monday evening Women's Bible Studies group and is an inspiration to all who attend.

Arouss was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. After graduating from the American Girls Junior College in Cairo, she came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship to continue her studies at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and earned her bachelor's degree in Education. There she met Robert Darpinian and they were married in 1955. Arouss was a Kindergarten teacher for 39 years in River Vale, NJ where she received the prestigious New Jersey Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award.

At the AMAA, Arouss has served as a member of the Board of Directors, the Public Affairs Committee and currently is a member of the Scholarship Committee. She has also served on the Educational Advisory Council at the Hovnanian Armenian School of NJ and is a past member of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Board of Trustees in NJ.

Arouss was presented with a beautiful and colorful quilt by APC Pastor Berj Gulleyan. "My life is like a "warm, colorful, beautiful quilt," said Arouss. "It is made up of lots of experiences, relationships and people who have touched my life. It is securely woven and tied together piece by piece. The thread that binds each square to make the whole is the Love of God and the care and compassion of my friends and family who prayerfully hold my life quilt together." □



The Valley Hospital Donates Anesthesia Equipment

The Valley Hospital of Ridgewood, NJ donated a Narkomed 2C Anesthesia Machine to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The AMAA is shipping the machine to the Yerevan Medical Center in Yerevan, Armenia. The Yerevan Medical Center partners with the AMAA to provide free medical care to the destitute children served by the AMAA. The Center, which does not receive financial support from the government, focuses on providing quality medical services at reduced costs to the vulnerable population of Yerevan. Both the AMAA and the Yerevan Medical Center appreciate the partnership with The Valley Hospital.

The AMAA thanks Dr. Celeste Helvacian who was instrumental in soliciting and obtaining this donation. Dr. Helvacian is an anesthesiologist at The Valley Hospital of Ridgewood, NJ. She is the wife of Nurhan Helvacian, who serves on the AMAA Board as its Treasurer and Budget & Finance Committee Chair. Thank you Helvacian family. □



L to R Tigran Melkonyan, AMAA Child Sponsorship Supervisor, William Eyerman, OR Inventory Management Specialist The Valley Hospital and Eldon Luis Reynoso, Invasive Procedures Supervisor The Valley Hospital.

Dr. Vahe Naljian Donates Anesthesia Machine for Armenia

Dr. Vahe Naljian of Upper Saddle River, NJ donated an Ohmeda 5210 Anesthesia Medical System (2004) to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The machine will be sent to Armenia through the United Armenian Fund and used in one of the AMAA Medical Centers and will be available to medical doctors who help the AMAA in their healthcare programs for the poor families in Armenia.

The AMAA thanks Dr. Naljian for the love he demonstrates for his people in Armenia and for his donation. □



L to R Dr. Vahe Naljian and Tigran Melkonyan, AMAA Child Sponsorship Supervisor.

Plasticos Foundation Performs Over 60 Surgeries In Yerevan, Armenia

The Plasticos Foundation, in partnership and in cooperation with the Gertmenian Foundation and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), organized and carried out a successful Medical Mission trip to Armenia in May.

During the ten day trip, the Plasticos team, including Dr. Robert and Ruth Ann Gertmenian Burns and Dennis and Susi Gertmenian, along with several medical doctors, nurses and assistants, performed over 60 surgeries on 33 patients.

The operations included corrective plastic surgery on orphans and children from low income families. At the same time,

approximately 15 medical doctors in Armenia participated in and observed the surgeries. The surgeries included cleft palates, burns and other birth defects. All of the operations took place at the St. Gregory Hospital in Yerevan. Dr. Ara Minnasian, the Hospital's Director, was instrumental in the success of this program.

We at the AMAA are grateful to God for bringing our participation in this great Medical Mission trip. We thank all those who participated in the mission and we pray for their future plans. We also pray for a speedy recovery and a healthier and brighter future for all of those children who were blessed with these surgeries and were touched by God's love. □

AMAA Summer Internship Program Focuses on Service

The Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) is pleased to report on its 2011 mission Internship Program. Founded in 1998 primarily as a work project, the Internship Program offers a new focus this year for young people in their late teens to mid-twenties. Set to depart in mid-July, the two week excursion to Armenia will emphasize hands on service to many activities and ministries of the Armenian Evangelical churches in Armenia.

The interns, who will be hosted by the AMAA-Yerevan office, will spend time in Camp (Sheen Shoghig) in Hankavan, visit a number of towns and villages in Armenia and will interact with the people in their daily lives and in their church activities. They will also learn about Armenian Evangelical history and about the many AMAA ministries in Armenia. Team Leader Rev. Nishan Bakalian, who is Pastor of the Armenian Martyrs' Church near Philadelphia, will introduce a new feature to the program this year: spiritual development. Rev. Bakalian will lead daily worship, Bible study and reflection on the interns' activities, observations and challenges.

The Internship Program has been publicized in Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) churches since Easter and also on the AMAA website. This year's program is special in another aspect in that it offers an optional one week extension to Lebanon for the interns to experience the life and culture of Armenian Evangelicals in that part of the world. The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) will host the interns at its conference center KCHAG and guide them through an activity filled week of ministry and fellowship with the churches and youth. They will return to the United States on August 9.

We ask our readers to pray for the success of this program this summer and to start planning to participate in our 2012 Internship Programs. □

AMAA and AEUNA Donate 900 Armenian Bibles and New Testaments

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) recently donated over 900 Armenian Bibles and New Testaments to over fourteen Armenian Evangelical Churches and Fellowships in the United States.

In the Old Testament, we read: "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) In the New Testament, we read: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

For these reasons, we wanted to spread God's word in our churches. We would like to continue spreading God's word with your continued prayers and financial support to the AMAA.

The following churches and fellowships received Armenian Bibles and New Testaments:

Holy Trinity Armenian Evang'l Church - Glendale, CA
Holy Trinity Armenian Church - North Hollywood, CA
Christ Armenian Church - La Crescenta, CA
Christian Outreach for Armenians - Glendale, CA
Armenian Memorial Church - Watertown, MA
Armenian Evangelical Fellowship - Las Vegas, NV
Armenian Christian Outreach of Paznaz - Pasadena, CA
Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church - Glendale, CA
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church - San Francisco, CA
Western Prelacy of the Armenian Church
First Armenian Presbyterian Church - Fresno, CA
Ararat Evangelical Church, Sandy, UT
Armenian Evangelical Church, Chicago, IL
Armenian Evangelical First Church, Montreal, QC, Canada

Յարույեալ Շունչ

Յովհաննու 20. 1-23

Վեր. Գոկտ. Փոլ Հայտնաբերան*

Եթե ամեն տարի վարժ էինք խաչելության ցաւի օրն ու յարութեան յաղթանակի օրը Շաբաթ օրով բաժնել մեր օրացոյցին վրայ, այս տարի կը տեսնենք թէ նոյն օրն է երբ երկու իրականութիւնները կը գոյակցին: Յան ու յաղթանահը, վիշտն ու ուրախութիւնը կրնան այնքան ալ իրարմէ անբաժան չըլլալ: Նոյնն է պարագան հայ ժողովուրդի Եղեռնի պատմութեան ու փորձառութեան:

Երբ մենք կեանքի նշան կ'ուզենք տեսնել անձի մը մէջ, անոր շունչը կը փնտռենք: Սրտի տրոփումներն ու մտքի գործունէութեան կարելորութիւնը ճանչնալէն առաջ մարդիկ շունչը կը սեպէին իբր կեանքի հիմնական ապացոյց: Այսինքն այն որ շունչ ունի՝ կեանք ունի, եւ ան որ շունչ կու տայ՝ կեանք կու տայ:

Խաչելութեան տխուր փորձառութենէն կարճ օրեր ետք, այսինքն՝ Կիրակի առաւօտ արդէն Մարիամ Մագդաղենացի կ'անդրադառնայ, որ Յիսուս իր գերեզմանին մէջ չէ: Իրեն ընկերակցող աշակերտները շփոթի կը մատնուին, որով կը կարծեն թէ մէկը Յիսուսի դիակը գողցած կամ փոխադրած է: Մինչ անոնք կը հեռանան, Յիսուս Մարիամի կ'երեւի առանց իր ինքնութիւնը յայտնելու, բայց հակիրճ խօսակցութենէ ետք Մարիամ Տէրը կը ճանչնայ եւ անմիջապէս կ'երթայ աշակերտներուն աւետիսը կու տայ:

Այդ իրիկունը երբ աշակերտներ ու Յիսուսի հետեւորդներ տան մը կողպուած դուռերուն ետին մտահոգ ու անվարան կերպով կ'աղօթէին (հաւանաբար Մարիամի լուրին հաւատացած չ'ըլլալով) եւ կը մտածէին թէ հրեաներէն ինչպէս պահուին, առանց Յիսուսի ներկայութեան ինչպէ՞ս իրենց կեանքը շարունակեն, յանկարծ Յիսուս «Խաղաղութիւն ձեզի» ողջոյնով անոնց

դիմաց՝ սենեակին մէջ տեղը կը կանգնի:

Նախ աշակերտները կ'ապշին ու կը կասկածին, քանի կը կարդանք (համար 20) որ իբր փաստ ան իր ձեռքն ու կողը՝ այսինքն խաչելութեան վերքերը ցոյց կու տայ, բայց վերջի վերջոյ մեծ ուրախութեամբ կը լեցուին:

Հաւանաբար շատ խօսակցութիւն, խորհրդակցութիւն եւ լուսաբանութիւն տեղի կ'ունենայ հոն: Աւետարանին մէջ մանրամասնութեան միայն մէկ մասը արձանագրուած է, սակայն Յիսուս՝ այդ սենեակին մէջ գտնուող աշակերտներուն վրայ կը փչէ ու կ'ըսէ «Առէք Սուրբ Հոգին»: Այսինքն՝ շունչով հոգի կը փոխանցուի, աներեւոյթ կեանք եւ ոյժ:

Միջին Արեւելեան հին մտայնութեան համեմատ, սուրբ մարդուն ոչ միայն գործը, կեանքը, եւ շուքը սուրբ կը նկատուէին, հապա նաեւ անոր շունչը սրբութեամբ գօտեպնդող կ'ըլլար:

Եկեղեցական պատմութեան մէջ կը բացատրուի թէ ինչպէս սովորութիւն դարձած էր Աղեքսանդրիայի Ղպտի պատրիարքին շունչը տոպրակի մը մէջ ամփոփել, տոպրակը սեղմ կերպով գոցել ու կապել եւ Եթովպիա դրկել զայն, ամէն անգամ որ այդ տեղի եկեղեցին նոր առաջնորդ մը ուզէր ձեռնադրել, որպէսզի պատրիարքին շունչով սրբութիւն եւ առաքելական օրհնութիւն ու շարունակականութիւն ստացուէր:

Ուրկէ՞ այսքան կարեւորութիւն կը տրուի շունչին:



Աստուածաշունչ Մատեանին մէջ շունչին կարեւորութիւնը կը սկսի Ստեղծագործութեան պատմութենէն, երբ Աստուած Ադամ մարդը շինեց եւ անոր ղեկավարութեան կենդանութեան շունչ փչեց եւ զայն ապրող էակի ու հոգիի վերածեց (Ծնն. 2-7): Նոյն ստեղծագործութեան պատմութեան մէջ Աստուծոյ հոգին առնչուած է նաեւ հովին ու փոթորիկին հետ, երբ «Աստուծոյ հոգին ջուրերուն վրայ կը շարժէր»:

Նոր կտակարանին մէջ, ինչպէս այլ ժողովուրդներու մօտ, շունչը կեանք, զօրութիւն եւ եռանդ կը նշանակէ:

Երբ Յիսուս, յարութենէն ետք շունչ կը փչէ, ան նոր հոգի կու տայ աշակերտներուն, անոնց վախի ու պարտութեան մատնուած կեանքերուն ամբողջական նորոգութիւն կու տայ եւ նոր կորով կը շնորհէ անոնց:

Ուրեմն, շունչ փչելը միշտ նշան եղած է Աստուծոյ ստեղծագործութեան եւ անոր սուրբ ներկայութեան՝ ըլլայ այդ փչող հովին, փոթորիկին կամ մարմնի մը շունչին: Ինչպէս շունչ անելոցնէր կեանք սկսիլ կը նշանակէ, ամէն սկսած կեանքի մէջ շունչը Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը կը յիշեցնէ: Եզեկիէլ մարգարէ (Եզեկ. 37. 1-14), չորցած ոսկորներուն ձորին մասին խօսած ատեն կ'ըսէ. «Այն ատեն ինծի ըսաւ. Շունչին մարգարէութիւնը ըրէ՛, որդի մարդոյ ու շունչին ըսէ՛, Տէր Եհովան այսպէս կ'ըսէ, «Ով շունչ, չորս հովերէն եկուր ու այս սպաննուածներուն վրայ փչէ, որպէսզի կենդանանան» եւ յաւիտենական կեանք կը ստեղծէր: Յիսուս աշակերտներուն կը սորվեցնէր որ մարդ այս աշխարհին տուած շունչէն, օդէն, ու հովէն անելիին՝ Աստուծոյ ստեղծող ու վերստեղծող շունչին կարօտ էր:

Յիսուսի շունչը Ուրբաթ օր, խաչին վրայ սպառած էր, բայց երրորդ օրը Հայրը իր մէջ նոր շունչ ստեղծած էր: Յիսուսի ո՛չ միայն մարմինը յարութիւն առած էր, այլեւ՝ շունչը: Յարութիւնով Յիսուս՝ մեղքին թակարդը կը չեզոքացնէր եւ այլեւս մահը ահարկու ազդեցութիւն եւ իշխանութիւն չէր, այլ անկումի հանգրուան մը միայն:

Յիսուսի փչած շունչը մեզ ալ յարուցանող շունչ է՝ անհատապէս եւ հաւաքաբար: Յիսուսի փչած շունչը յոյսի, միութարութեան, հետեւողութեան ու յաղթանակի շունչ է, Սուրբ Հոգին է: Յիսուսի փչած շունչը մարդկութեան ու հայ

ժողովուրդին վրայ նոյն շունչն է որ զինք իսկ մեռելներէն վերցուցած էր:

Յիսուսի յարուցեալ եւ յարուցանող շունչը կու գայ մեր ինկած, շուարած, յուսահատած, խոցուած եւ պարտուած կեանքերը նորոգելու, եւ այդպէս եկաւ յետ-եղեռնեան հայ իրականութեան վրայ:

Յիսուսի շունչը երազային շունչ չէ, որ երկինքին մէջ կը փչէ: Յիսուսի փչած շունչը նմանութիւն ունի ծնողին շունչին որ իր մէկ վիրաւորուած զաւկին վերքին վրայ կը փչէ, եւ մահովը իր լացը կը դադրեցնէ. եւ ծնողին զով ու հարազատ շունչը կարծէք զաւկին բժշկութիւն կուտայ: Յիսուսի շունչը նմանութիւն ունի կարմիր խաչի կամ անոր նման խումբերու շտապ օգնութեան գործիչներուն, որոնք շնչասպառ եղողին բերանէն ուղղակի շունչ կը փչեն ու կեանք կը փրկեն: Մեր ժողովուրդին հասնող, մէկ միլիոնէ անելիին օժանդակող բարեսիրտ մարդոց նման, որոնք տուին տեղահան հայուն տուն, սնունդ, եւ նոր առիթ:

Հաւատալ որ Յիսուս Քրիստոս յարեալ մեռելներէն՝ եւ յարութիւն տուաւ նաեւ մեր ժողովուրդին, կը պահանջէ որ մենք ալ աշակերտներուն նման ուշադրութիւն դարձնենք թէ արդէօք Յիսուս ու՞ր եւ ինչպէ՞ս մեր վրայ ալ իր շունչը կը փչէ: Պէտք է ընդունինք որ մենք ալ բոլորս նոր շունչի պէտք ունինք, մեր շունչն ալ կը սպառի: Մենք կը յոգնինք մեզմէ, ուրիշէն, վիճակներէն, եւայլն...

Մինչ Յիսուսի յարութեան լուրը մեզ կը խանդավառէ, մեր Տէրը կեանք ունի եւ կեանք կու տայ մեզի այսօր ալ: Վստահինք որ մեր Յարուցեալը, թաքմ շունչի աղբիւրը, մեր ալ վերքին վրայ շունչ պիտի փչէ, մեզ պիտի ամօքէ, մեղքէն արձակէ, եւ դրկէ մեզ աշխարհ, ապրելու, աւետարանելու, սորվեցնելու, բժշկելու, կերակրելու եւ մեր սահմանափակ շունչով ուրիշին ալ յարութեան շունչը փոխանցելու համար:

Յարուցեալ Տէրը նոր շունչ փչեց հայ ժողովուրդին վրայ Եղեռնի ահարկու փորձառութենէն ետք, եւ մինչեւ օրս կը շարունակէ մեզի յարութեան ներշնչումը պարգեւել Հայաստանի, Արցախի եւ Սփիւռքի ամբողջ տարածքին: Ուստի ստանանք յարուցեալ շունչը եւ ապրինք:

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Ellis Collignon III

Ellis M. Collignon III, father in law of June Kaloustian Collignon, Co-Chair of the AMAA New Jersey Orphan and Child Care Committee, passed away on May 11, 2011 in Johnsbury, NY. He was 86.



Born in Oradell, NJ and longtime resident of River Vale, NJ, Ellis was a principal in Collignon Insurance Agency, Kerr-Collignon Realty and North Jersey Campers & Trailers. He was a prominent figure in the history and community of Bergen County's Pascack Valley, dedicating his life to various organizations including the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department, Little League, Boy Scouts, Pascack Valley Hospital Foundation, Lions Club, Elks and the Pascack Valley Historical Society.

Ellis is survived by his sons Douglas (Debbie) of Thurman, NY and David (June) of Westwood, NJ; eight grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. A Memorial Remembrance Service was held at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ on May 18. □

Daniel Donabedian

Daniel Donabedian, a lifelong resident of Salem, NH, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2011 at the age of 90.



Daniel's passion was farming and working the land. A local businessman, he managed Donabedian Farm and started Donabedian Brothers Wholesale Fruit and Produce with his brother, Suren. Throughout the growth of the company, they built three warehouses. After Suren's passing, Daniel's son, Greg, joined the family business. Daniel also owned G-Daniels Mall in Salem.

He was a member of the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem and was a founder of the Salem Trust Company, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors.

Daniel is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise Kerkorian Donabedian; son Gregory and his wife Mary Jude of Windham, NH; daughter Susan and her husband Dr. Thomas Harris of Salem, NH; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on May 10 at Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem. The family suggests that memorial

donations be made to the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church, 2 Salem Street, Salem NH 03079 or to Salemhaven Activities Fund, 23 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH. □

Kevork Karaboyadjian

Kevork Karaboyadjian, the director of the Center of Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL) passed away on Monday, June 20, at his home in Beirut, Lebanon. He was 72.



Kevork was born in Beirut to Movses and Marie. He received his KG and Elementary education at the Armenian Evangelical College and the High School at the Armenian Evangelical Central High School graduating in 1958. He continued his education at American University of Beirut and the Haigazian University majoring in History. Thereafter, he attended Near East School of Theology (NEST) from which he graduated in 1967.

Kevork married Asdghig Kurkjian in 1968 and the family was blessed with a son and a daughter.

From 1960-1970 he taught at the Armenian Evangelical Central High School, Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian Secondary School and Simonian College. He has served on the Board of Education of Shamlian Tatigian School. In 1989 he joined the CAHL as its Director and served the Institution faithfully until his untimely death.

For many years Kevork was the chairman of the Athletic Group of the Union of the Armenian Athletic Society "Homenetmen" and received a medal for his faithful service to the Armenian Community.

In 1960 he became a communicant member of the Armenian Evangelical First Church of Beirut. He served on the Central Committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East and on many sub committees of the Union.

One of his major accomplishments as the Director of the CAHL was the establishment of the One Million Dollar Endowment Fund. Kevork was a humble person, never seeking praise and position. His office door was always open to all. By character he was very friendly, humorous, but most importantly he loved his Lord, his church and his Armenian heritage. He loved his family, his work and his co-workers. He also had a great love for arts. He lived his life with faith and served until the end. The funeral service took place on Wednesday, June 22 at the Armenian Evangelical First Church. □

Levon Keshishian

Levon Keshishian of Beverly Hills, MI passed away on May 1, 2011 at the age of 86.



Affectionately known as Leo, he was born in Detroit, the son of Dr. Sarkis and Zabel Varbedian Keshishian. As a young child, he was always interested in flying and was noted for the many model airplanes he built. Following college, Leo volunteered for military service in the US Air Force and served during World War II as a mechanic on the ground and as a tail gunner in the Philippines and Japan during combat missions.

He opened an auto repair shop and soon after entered the Ford Motor Company Dealership System where he became a Service Manager for auto dealerships for many years until his retirement. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and had recently built a replica of a classic bi-plane aircraft.

Leo was a life long member of the Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield MI, where he was elected to the Board of Trustees and also sang in the Choir. A member of the Knights of Vartan, he supported the advancement and preservation of Armenian traditions, heritage, culture and religion.

Leo is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dickranouhie Messrobian Keshishian; his daughter Isabel Kesh; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on May 6 at the Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield. Donations may be made in his memory to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Lawrence Technological University or the Armenian Congregational Church. □

Alice Shnorhokian

Alice Shnorhokian was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. A devoted Christian, a proud Aintabtsi, an educator, a nurse, a midwife, an advocate for the Armenian cause, a pampishd (a pastor's wife) and a mother who raised three wonderful Christian children, all of whom are involved in leadership positions in their respective Evangelical churches, she passed



away on June 16, 2011 at the age of 98 in Emerson, NJ.

As a child, she moved to Aleppo, Syria with her family. Later she moved to Beirut, Lebanon to study at the American University of Beirut, graduating as a nurse, a midwife and an educator. As the wife of a prolific writer and a pastor, Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian, she became active and participated in many church related activities. In 1980 she moved to Paramus, NJ where she became an active member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church. She joined her husband who served as the pastor of Armenian Congregational Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, QC, Canada, and the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA.

Alice was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, the Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian. She is survived by her three children, Arpi Sarian, Ivan and Harout; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on June 18 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the Armenian Presbyterian Church or to the AMAA Shnorhokian Publication Fund. □

Hagop Terjimanian

Hagop Soghomon Terjimanian, a beloved former professor at Haigazian University, passed away May 29, 2011 in Montebello, CA. He was 72.

Hagop was born in the Old City of Jerusalem and attended Holy Translators Armenian School in the Armenian Quarter. He moved to Beirut in 1959 to attend Haigaizan College (now University), where he received his bachelor's degree in Education. In 1963, he attended the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale, IL to obtain a master's degree in History and Philosophy. He returned to Haigazian in 1965 to teach in the Humanities Department. In 1971, Hagop was appointed Chairman of the Humanities Department at Haigazian and continued to teach there until 1976 when he moved his family to the United States. He served as the first principal of the Armenian Community School in Fresno, CA. In 1981, he became principal of Mesrobian Armenian School in Montebello, CA. He continued his work as a professor at various private schools until 1987 when he began his 17 year tenure in the Los Angeles Unified School District working both as a teacher and as an advisor. On April 30, 1991, he would



miss the only day of work in his career due to the passing of his father in Jerusalem.

He had a great desire to teach and he received many honors during his career including awards from California Governor George Deukmejian and Mayor of Los Angeles Tom Bradley. But he felt that the greatest recognition were those accolades he received from his former students. Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association (AMAA), said, "I, along with many of my classmates at Haigazian, cherish the fond memories of having him as a teacher. He was patient, caring and loving. He will be greatly missed."

Hagop retired in 2004 and his typical retirement days involved cooking, writing and spending time with his beloved grandchildren. He was very well read and had a great passion for Armenian history and culture and wrote about it in his books and articles. He was recently working on a new book entitled, "The ABCs of Armenian Eating and Entertaining."

Hagop is survived by his wife of 45 years, Anahid Khanjian Terjmanian; two sons, Shahe and Ayk; and two grandchildren, Arek and Lori. The funeral service took place June 4 at the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral in Montebello, CA. A memorial luncheon to celebrate his life was held at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey. The family suggests that memorial gifts be

made to the AMAA Terjimanian Scholarship Fund for Haigaizan University.

As his son, Shahe, said in his eulogy, "Hagop was a peacemaker. He would often say, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' He always looked at the bright side of life and would tell us to 'count your blessings.' His most favorite quote was from an old sundial he had once seen, which had an inscription that read 'Let others tell of storms and showers, I'll only mark your sunny hours.'" □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

*** Barry Barsoumian**

Wallingford, CT

*** Robert Gureghian**

Farmington, MI

John Monaco

Belmont, MA

Kirakos Vapurciyan

Berkley, MI

*** Rose Shahabian**

Foxborough, MA

** Memorials designated for AMAA*

AMAA JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has announced it will once again sponsor the James G. Jameson Essay Contest. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economy or history.

Awards will be made in two categories: High School contestants and College/University contestants. The deadline for entries is SEPTEMBER 1, 2011.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students from North America are eligible. Only unpublished entries will be accepted. The winner in each category will be awarded \$500.00, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and only one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious, no award will be granted that year.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to:

James G. Jameson Essay Contest
Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.
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Paramus, NJ 07652



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OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 92nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Ninety-Second Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. at the United Armenian Congregational Church, 3480 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles, CA. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters, and Affiliated boards of the Association for fiscal year 2010-2011;
- II. Review the financial reports for fiscal year 2010-2011;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor;
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 92nd ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, October 12 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA

- 3:00 pm AEUNA Executive Committee meeting
7:00 pm AEUNA Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 13 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA

- 9:00 am AEUNA Board Meeting
7:00 pm Joint Home Missions Committee Meeting

Friday, October 14 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA

- 8:30 am Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
3:00 pm Seminar/Workshop
7:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 15 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA

- 9:30 am 92nd Annual Meeting
2:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 15 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, CA

- 6:30 pm 92nd Annual Meeting Banquet

Sunday, October 16 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA

- 11:00 am 92nd Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers